

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at 9 a.m., in SH-216, to hold an open hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing to discuss telemarketing fraud against the elderly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIA AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asia Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at 2 p.m., to hold hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TERRORISTS IN ISRAEL

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, once again, terrorists have targeted the heart of Israel. My prayers are with the people of Israel as they mourn the latest victims. Over 60 people have died in the terror of the last 10 days, and the peace process may die as well.

We cannot understand the kind of evil and cowardice that kills children as they walk to a party; families as they walk down the street on a holiday; ordinary and innocent people on their way to work. They time their attacks to kill as many civilians as possible. They load their bombs with nails—to make sure that all injuries are serious. Their goal is to kill Jews and to strike a death knell on the peace process.

Israelis are angry and afraid. Their confidence in the peace process is badly shaken—and I don't blame them. They have given up land and security in exchange for peace. Yet they still live under constant threat.

We must stand by Israel as a friend and ally. I support the President's plan to provide immediate assistance to Israel. The United States will use our intelligence agencies to help them route out these terrorists. We will provide specialized explosive detection equipment and technical experts. And America will lead an international effort to better coordinate the war against terrorism. Only an international effort will track down these killers and those who bankroll them. The international community must also condemn these acts of terrorism—and ensure that no country provides a sanctuary for these killers.

The Palestinian Authority can and must do more to stop Hamas. If they

don't show the will to confront terrorism, the chance for peace will be lost.

I hope that the peace process can continue. But friends do not tell friends what to do. As Americans, we cannot tell Israel what risks are worth taking for peace. We can only imagine what it is to live in a country that is less than 9 miles wide at its narrowest point—and still surrounded by enemies.

Israel has defended itself in five wars for survival. But in this war against terrorism, all ordinary citizens are on the front lines. The international community must stand with Israel. We must ensure that the fanatics do not prevail.●

HONORING THE U.S. TAP TEAM

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Gloria Jean Cuming and the United States Tap Team, recent winners of the Annual World TapDance Championships, which were held in Dresden, Germany.

Not only is this victory prestigious and respected around the world, but the victory was a special one for the team and our country. This is the first time in the history of the competition that the U.S. team won the coveted title. In addition to the sterling team performance, two individuals, Linda Provo and Stacy Eastman, advanced to the finals of the individual competition, the only 2 women among the 12 semi-finalists to do so.

All 22 dancers are from the New Haven area in my State of Connecticut, and they all study at Ms. Cuming's dance studios. Ms. Cuming not only selected the team, but was their choreographer and assistant technical director as well.

Mr. President, I know that you and the entire Senate joins me in congratulating these fine performers, who represent their art and their country with the greatest of skill and pride.●

MARY BETH BLEGEN, MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, with great pleasure and enthusiasm I would like to recognize Mary Beth Blegen as the Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Not only has Ms. Blegen been awarded the 1995 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, but she has also been selected as one of the four distinguished finalists for the National Teacher of the Year program. Ms. Blegen arrived in Washington Sunday and has been giving a presentation sharing her dedication to the youth of Minnesota, attending press conferences, and giving interviews for the National Teacher of the Year Award. Despite her rigorous schedule I was delighted to meet with Ms. Blegen to give her my support and of course wish her the best in the competition.

Mary Beth Blegen a dedicated educator for 30 years, is a teacher of English, writing, and humanities at Worthington Senior High School. Ms. Blegen il-

lustrates the dedication Minnesotans have to providing quality education for our children. It is also my honor to note that three previous National Teachers of the Year have been from Minnesota and only California has contributed more teachers to this national award.

I'd also like to recognize Minnesota's biggest education organization, the Minnesota Education Association [MEA], and its 48,000 members, who represent over 80 percent of Minnesota's public school teachers. MEA has sponsored the Minnesota Teacher of the Year program for 33 years.●

TAX RELIEF FOR UNITED STATES TROOPS SERVING IN BOSNIA

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2778, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2778) to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services for the peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia, shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the House recently passed legislation to provide much needed tax relief for American troops who are performing peacekeeping services in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia.

When our young men and women wear our uniform in these war-torn regions, I want them to know that they have my unqualified support. I want them to know that they are there for a reason. They are on important missions—missions to help free these war-torn areas from their undemocratic pasts.

While I would have preferred to limit our involvement to strategic and tactical air and sea support, we must now give our full support to our troops. This legislation provides much needed tax relief for our troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia.

Let me briefly outline the major aspects of this legislation. First, the bill exempts from Federal income tax military pay received by enlisted personnel while performing peacekeeping services in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia.

Second, the bill exempts military pay received by commissioned officers while serving in those areas in an amount equal to the highest monthly pay for enlisted personnel which is currently \$4,104.80 per month.

Third, military pay received by those hospitalized as a result of injuries incurred while performing peacekeeping

services would be exempt from Federal income tax for up to 2 years after termination of peacekeeping activities in the hazardous duty area.

Fourth, the bill extends the time for filing tax returns, paying tax and other deadlines to allow our troops to focus on their dangerous task rather than on tax deadlines.

Fifth, the bill reduces Federal estate taxes and forgives Federal income taxes for those whose lives are taken while performing the peacekeeping mission. Let me just say that I am deeply troubled that similar relief was not provided to Americans killed while serving in Somalia.

Sixth, the bill eliminates tax withholding on military pay earned tax-free in these hazardous duty areas.

Seventh, the bill provides special rules for surviving spouses and couples who file joint tax returns, as well as an exemption from the telephone excise tax for calls made from the hazardous duty area.

Finally, in addition to the tax relief for military personnel in the hazardous duty areas, the bill also postpones various tax deadlines for support personnel. To be eligible for such tax relief, the individual must be deployed away from such individual's regular duty station and performing services outside the United States as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. Such relief would be available to Department of Defense employees.

I fully support this legislation and encourage the Senate to pass it quickly to ease the tax burden and tax filing requirements on our courageous American troops who are serving in these hazardous duty areas.

• Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, today is a significant day for our troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia. Today the Senate will pass important legislation that will provide tax relief to our military forces deployed in the former Yugoslavia.

This relief is essential to ensure that the Internal Revenue Service does not make life more difficult for our soldiers than the rigors of their Bosnian duty has already. Speaker GINGRICH and I announced in December our intention to send to the President tax filing and other relief for our soldiers. Earlier this week the House passed the legislation and I am pleased that the Senate is doing so today.

I believe that it is critical for Congress to continue demonstrating its unequivocal support for our men and women in uniform involved in Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Able Sentry. Our troops have more important things to focus on than compiling records, meeting paperwork deadlines, or computing their tax liability. And they should receive income and estate tax relief for participating in the operations.

I thank my colleagues for voting with me to pass this critical legislation. •

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2778,

a bill designed to provide tax relief for our service men and women participating in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. This bill is very similar to S. 1553, a bill I introduced in the Senate on February 1, 1996, mirroring the efforts of our colleague in the House, Congressman BUNNING.

I want to convey my thanks to the House for their quick action in approving this bill. The amendments of the House incorporated certain modifications and additional provisions which will improve the beneficial impact of the bill for our men and women in uniform.

Whether or not we supported the deployment of United States troops to Bosnia, all Americans are considered for the safety and security of our fellow countrymen who are deployed as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. Although this is a peacekeeping mission, it is clearly not without risk. Land mines and sniper fire will continue to threaten our troops throughout the duration of this operation. As long as our service men and women are on the ground, they may come into harm's way.

Sadly, we have already experienced the first American casualty in Bosnia, and we probably have not seen the last. Let us not forget the family of Sfc. Donald Dugan. While enactment of this legislation will not return him to his family, it contains provisions which will alleviate some of the financial hardships his family may be experiencing as a result of his death.

Because this is a peacekeeping mission and not a war, the President has not declared the area of operation to be a combat zone. Therefore, existing law does not permit our service members in Bosnia to receive any of the tax benefits and relief normally provided to those deployed to combat zones. This legislation will extend to American military personnel in Bosnia and their families the same benefits available to service members who were deployed to the Persian Gulf war.

The more than 20,000 United States military personnel deployed to Bosnia are performing their duties in service to their country. On a recent trip to Bosnia, I had the opportunity to personally visit with many of our men and women, and I let them know what a fantastic job they were doing.

This bill is a small gesture to show our troops they are not forgotten. Its provisions will alleviate their worries about financial hardships experienced by their families left at home. It is an import expression of our support for their professionalism and patriotism.

I understand the President has indicated he supports this bill. I urge my colleagues to support adoption of this legislation, and I hope the President will act promptly to sign it into law.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating

to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the bill (H.R. 2778) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar item No. 340, Senate Resolution 219.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 219) designating March 25, 1996, as "Greek Independence Day: a national day of celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the resolution (S. Res. 219) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 219

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas 1996 will mark the historic first official state visit to the United States of an elected head of state of Greece;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 1996 marks the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That March 25, 1996 is designated as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy". The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.